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NPIC/IEG			10/83

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(See inside cover)

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CONTROL NO. Z-14085/83

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 Intelligence Sources or Methods Involved
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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31 OCTOBER 1983

SS-X-25 RELATED ACTIVITY
PLESETSK ICBM LAUNCH TEST SITE 23, USSR (SWN)

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2.

HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE FROM IMAGERY IF THE LAUNCH OCCURRED FROM THE SILO, THE SILO APRON; " OR THE SINGLE-BAY GARAGE (SBG). IT ALSO WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE LAUNCH MODE FOR THE FOURTH SS-X-25 LAUNCHED FROM LTS 23 ON THE FIRST THREE SS-X-25 LAUNCHES WERE FROM THE SILO AT LTS 23. (SWN)

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IMAGERY OF LTS 23 WAS ACQUIRED ON APPROXIMATELY 31 HOURS AFTER THE LAUNCH. USAF GLOBAL WEATHER SERVICE REPORTED THAT A LIGHT SNOW (ABOUT THREE CENTIMETERS) HAD FALLEN SINCE THE 0430Z LAUNCH ON NO DIRECT EVIDENCE OF THE LAUNCH -- A BURN MARK OR BLAST EFFECTS -- WAS IDENTIFIED ONSITE. THE SILO DOOR WAS CLOSED, TWO SUPPORT VEHICLES (A MAZ-543 CARGO TRUCK AND A TRUCK-MOUNTED CRANE) WERE ON THE SILO APRON, AND MODERATE TRACK ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED BETWEEN THE SOUTH END OF THE SBG AND THE SILO TURNAROUND APRON. NO PRELAUNCH IMAGERY WAS ACQUIRED DURING THE WEEK BEFORE THE LAUNCH. (SWN)

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THE LACK OF DIRECT IMINT EVIDENCE OF A LAUNCH ON IS SIMILAR TO THE LACK OF EVIDENCE OBSERVED ON IMAGERY AFTER THE FOURTH SS-X-25 LAUNCH FROM LTS 23. HOWEVER, PRELAUNCH IMAGERY WAS ACQUIRED ON THAT DID SHOW ACTIVITY THAT APPARENTLY WAS NOT SILO RELATED. ON BOTH CANVAS/NET-COVERED UNIDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT WAS ON THE APRON NEXT TO THE SBG AND POSITIONED ON ALIGNMENT MARKS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENT SINCE AT LEAST IN ADDITION, A SUPPORT VEHICLE (MAZ-543 CARGO TRUCK) WAS ON THE SILO

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TURNAROUND APRON. THE CANVAS/NET WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO COVER A MOBILE MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER (TEL) AND POSSIBLY OTHER VEHICLES AS WELL. THE LTS 23 SILO WAS OPEN AND APPEARED EMPTY AND NO ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED AT THE SBG. ON POSTLAUNCH IMAGERY OF [REDACTED] THE CANVAS/NET-COVERED UNIDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT WAS NO LONGER PRESENT AND THE ALIGNMENT MARKS ON WHICH THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN POSITIONED WERE VISIBLE. THE SILOS AT LTS 23 AND COLLOCATED PLESETSK ICBM LTS 24 (BE [REDACTED] WERE OPEN AND APPEARED EMPTY. NO ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED AT THE SBG. (SWN)

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ON [REDACTED] THE CANISTER/CAPSULE TRANSPORTER AND SILO LOADER WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SS-X-25 WERE PARKED AT PLESETSK ICBM LTS 14 [REDACTED] WHICH IS AN SS-X-24 ICBM ASSOCIATED LTS. THIS EQUIPMENT WAS INITIALLY OBSERVED AT LTS [REDACTED] NO LAUNCH-RELATED ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED AT EITHER LTS 14 OR PLESETSK ICBM LTS 21 [REDACTED]. (SWN)

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3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 63-00-28N 041-32-50E (S)

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